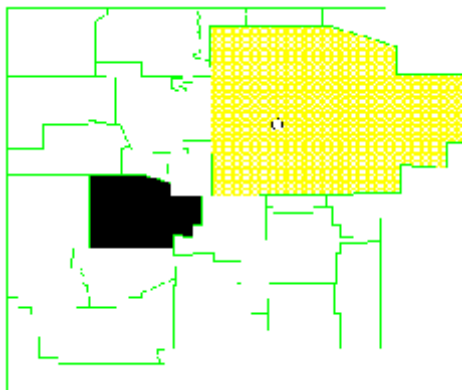


# CAL WEST METALS (USSBA) NEW MEXICO

EPA ID# NMD097960272



## EPA REGION 6 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 02

Socorro County  
1/2 mile north of Lemitar

Last Update: 11/29/99

## Site Description

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**Location:** 1/2 mile north of Lemitar in Socorro County.

**Population:** ! Approximately 1,000 people get drinking water from public and private wells within a 3-mile radius.  
! Six hundred acres of food and forage crops are irrigated with surface water within 3 miles downstream of the site.

**Setting:** ! The site encompasses approximately 43.8 acres. The facility processed approximately 20,000 automobile batteries in a 13-acre area to recover lead.

**Hydrology:** ! Surface soils consist of gravelly sandy loams  
! Ground water at the site is encountered at a depth of 70 to 95 feet below ground surface.

## Wastes and Volumes

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! PRINCIPAL POLLUTANTS: Lead - 54,500 parts per million (ppm) to 424,000 ppm  
! VOLUME: 45,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil drainage sediments, pond sediments, and broken battery materials.

## Site Assessment and Ranking

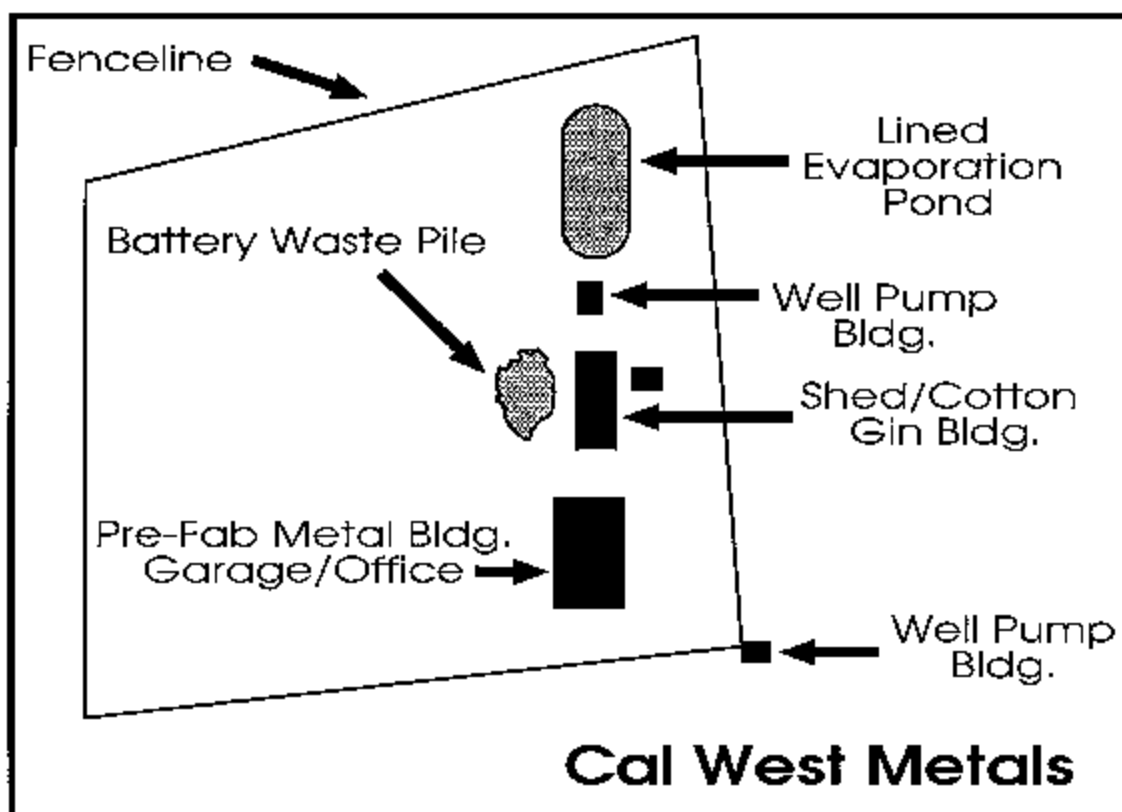
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### NPL LISTING HISTORY

Site HRS Score: 59.37  
Proposed Date: 6/24/88  
Final Date: 3/31/89  
NPL Update: No. 7  
NPL Deletion: 12/20/96

## Site Map and Diagram

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## The Remediation Process

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### Site History:

- ! The facility operated as a battery recycling plant and secondary lead smelter between 1979 and 1981. Raw materials recovery research and development continued between 1982 and 1984.
- ! On October 23, 1985, the Small Business Administration (SBA) foreclosed on and took ownership of the facility.
- ! The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) and EPA conducted preliminary site inspections from 1984 through 1989.
- ! NMED prepared a Superfund Hazard Ranking System package in January 1987, and the site was formally added to the Superfund National Priorities List on March 31, 1989.
- ! EPA began the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) in August 1990. EPA conducted the RI/FS with in-house personnel and assistance from the NMED.
- ! The RI/FS Reports and the Proposed Plan of action were released to the public in July 1992.
- ! The Proposed Plan public comment period was held July 20, 1992, through August 18, 1992.
- ! On September 29, 1992, EPA signed the Record of Decision (ROD).

! The Remedial Action contract was awarded on February 25, 1994, and construction was completed by the end of April 1995.

#### Health Considerations:

! Ingestion; Potential source of groundwater contamination.

## Record of Decision

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Signed: September 29, 1992

! The major components of the selected remedy include:

#### Ground Water:

! Monitoring the site ground water with existing wells down gradient of the disposal site.

#### Soil Treatment:

! Excavation and treatment, by stabilization/ solidification, of approximately 45,000 cubic yards of contaminated soils, sediments, and source waste materials.

! Disposal of the treated contaminated material in an onsite excavation.

#### Other Remedies Considered

1. No Action
2. Off-site Disposal

#### Reason Not Chosen

No Risk Reduction  
Not Cost Effective

## Community Involvement

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! Community Involvement Plan: Developed 4/91

! Open houses and workshops: 8/91, and 6/92, 4/93, 4/94

! Original Proposed Plan Fact Sheet and Public Meeting: 7/92.

! Original ROD Fact Sheet: 11/92

! Milestone Fact Sheets: 2/91, 8/91

! Citizens on site mailing list: 30

! Constituency Interest: Low

! Site Repository: Socorro Public Library, 404 Park St., SW, Socorro, NM; 505/835-1114

## Technical Assistance Grant

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! Availability Notice: 1991

! Letters of Intent Received: None

! Final Application Received: None

! Grant Award: N/A

! Current Status: No apparent citizen interest in grant.

## Contacts

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- ! **Remedial Project Manager (EPA):** Don Williams, 214/665-2197, Mail Sta. 6SF-LN
- ! **State Contact:** Birgit Landin, 505/827-9669
- ! **Community Involvement Coord. (EPA):** Nancy Stonebarger, 214/665-6619, Mail Sta. 6SF-PO
- ! **Attorney (EPA):** Mark Peycke, 214/665-8027, Mail Sta. 6SF-DL
- ! **State Coordinator (EPA):** Joe Massey, 214/665-8505, Mail Sta. 6SF-AT
- ! **Prime Contractor:** Eagle Construction & Environmental, Eastland, Texas

## Cost Recovery

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- ! **Pursue Cost Recovery**
- ! PRPs Identified:

- ! Cal West Metals
- ! Jim and Albert LaPoint
- ! Small Business Administration

- ! Viable PRP: Jim and Albert Lapoint

## Present Status and Issues

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- ! Following listing of the Cal West Metals (USSBA) site on the NPL, the EPA assessed the site conditions and determined that it presently poses no immediate threat to public health or the environment while further studies into cleanup alternatives were being conducted.
- ! The Remedial Action (RA) contract was awarded on February 25, 1994.
- ! An Open House was hosted by EPA and NMED in April 1994 to discuss the Remedial Action with interested citizens.
- ! Preliminary Close-Out Report was completed on September 29, 1995, marking the completion of the remedy at the site.
- ! The site was deleted from the NPL on December 20, 1996.

## Benefits

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- ! The water supply from wells for 1,000 citizens will be protected from metals contamination from the site.
- ! By stabilizing/solidifying the contaminated soil and placing the solidified material under a concrete cap, EPA has made sure that the soil would not pose a threat to the surrounding either being transported by wind or leached into groundwater. The site can be returned to beneficial use following sampling of down gradient monitor wells.
- ! Since the site was cleaned up, local businesses have inquired about the possibility of redeveloping the property for commercial purposes. One resident expressed an interest in using the property for a machine shop.